

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 23, 2004 solicits further comment with regard to the patentable distinctions recited in claim 32 over the Rohr reference. Applicant thanks the Examiner for further opportunity to remark on the claim.

Like the other independent claims, independent claim 32 affirmatively recites that the dredge assembly and the hopper are mounted on or supported by the hull. This structural recitation distinguishes claim 32 over the separate hulls disclosed in Rohr.

Secondly, the conveyor system limitation in claim 32 structurally recites at least two conveyor positions; the first leading material away from the hull and the second conveying material into the hopper which is supported by the hull. This recitation particularly points out and distinctly claims the patentable distinction of claim 32 over Rohr, which discloses only a single path that can only lead material to a next separate hull.

Additionally, claim 32 recites a limitation to a conveyor system and also a limitation drawn to a distribution conveyor. Like independent claim 23, this distinguishes over Rohr. In the Rohr '363 reference, if any of the "floating independent conveyor units" are to be read as a distribution conveyor, then the other "floating independent conveyor units," assuming for the sake of argument that they might be read as "second movable portions" from the conveyor system of the pending claim, are not movable to convey material away from the hull. They can only move material into a next hopper. Accordingly, the Rohr '363 reference does not disclose the recited limitations of claim 32 and therefore does not anticipate it.

Moreover, claim 32 recites at least one further limitation that is not disclosed in Rohr. One is that the moving floor of the hopper is routed over "a series of rollers." The Rohr

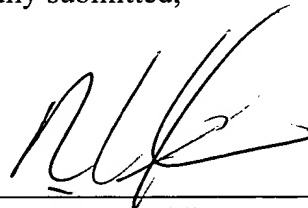
reference does not disclose rollers, nor does it describe a moving floor. The Rohr reference does not even disclose a hopper.

Conclusion

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. C. Haldiman', is written over a horizontal line.

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